



## PRESS RELEASE

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For more information:  
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# “Great Places” forums continue *Hundreds of Iowans participate in first week*

DES MOINES – Hundreds of Iowans participated in forums in Clear Lake, Spencer and Council Bluffs this week to learn about Iowa Great Places, a state initiative designed to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities that make many places in Iowa special.

“We found tremendous enthusiasm and creativity at the first three forums,” said Anita Walker, director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. “I’m eager to hear more ideas for Great Places as we continue on to seven more forums across the state.”

A Great Places Citizen Advisory Board appointed by Governor Tom Vilsack will select three pilot Great Places in October.

Upcoming forum dates and locations are as follows:

Monday – National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, 350 East 3rd Street, **Dubuque**, 4-6 p.m.

Tuesday – Pella Opera House, 611 Franklin, **Pella**, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday – Oster Regent Theater, 103 Main Street, **Cedar Falls**, 4-6 p.m.

Thursday – Stanley Auditorium, 225 Iowa Avenue, **Muscatine**, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

June 1 – Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 410 Third Avenue SE (*NOTE: new location*) **Cedar Rapids**, 4-6 p.m.

June 2 – State Historical Building Auditorium, 600 East Locust Street, **Des Moines**, 4-6 p.m.

June 9 – Martin Ballroom, 410 Pierce Street, **Sioux City**, 4-6 p.m.

Lt. Governor Sally Pederson will speak at the forums in Dubuque, Pella, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines. Iowa Department of Management Director Mike Tramontina will speak at the forums in Muscatine and Sioux City.

Forums are free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit [www.iowagreatplaces.gov](http://www.iowagreatplaces.gov) or call 515-281-8824.

*Persons with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in a forum should contact Jill Fulitano-Avery at (515) 242-6334 or [jill.avery@iowa.gov](mailto:jill.avery@iowa.gov).*

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#### Citizen Advisory Board:

Robin Anderson  
Mason City

David Bernstein  
Sioux City

Claire Celsi  
Des Moines

Samantha Erickson  
Pleasant Hill

Mark Ginsberg  
Iowa City

Tom Hanafan  
Council Bluffs

Quentin Hart  
Waterloo

Terry Lynch  
Marion

Bill Menner  
Grinnell

Gil Spence  
Dubuque

Amanda Styron  
Mount Pleasant

Rita Vargas  
Davenport

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